



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE PAPERS.

FROM ORIGINALS IN THE VIRGINIA STATE ARCHIVES.

CONTINUED.

ABRAM VAN BIBBER TO WILLIAM LUX, 1776.

Copy of Mr. Abram V'n Bibber's Letter to Wm. Lux.

St. Eustatia, 28 March, 1776.

Dear Sir:

Now I mean to give you a full acc't of the Virg'a affairs as it seems now determined in my favor. I have often informed you of the little hopes I had of recovering it on my arrival here, as Mr. Van Dam was dead and had settled it with Mr. Will'm Goodrich but a few weeks before his Death that the money was to be paid only to said Goodrich or his order, for which Goodrich has Van Dam's note of hand, and at same time took up of Vandam 400£, s't'g of the said money for the use of his Lordship as he said, and signified to Mr. V. D. that it would be all seized on for his Lordship's use.

Well, on my arrival I soon learnt this, & made all the Friends I could & took every step in my Power, but it would not bear a Publick action, as it concerns that the States disavow. Well, I offered good and sufficient securities of Indemnification to that Widow & concern'd, &c., and hints of presents and all that in order to secure the Power, and I was in a good way, but I was then frustrated by the arrival of Mr. Bartholomew Goodrich who brought an absolute order from his Lordship to demand & take up the money & Powder and if he was refused it to apply to adm'l Young at Antigue for an order to this Governor for it. Well Goodrich came out a great Tory and was bent to follow his orders. I took every persuasive way I cou'd think of to prevent his Vigorous prosecution of his orders & he found very soon that he was held in such contempt and so despised here that he began to cool a little, and on his arrival at Antigua he

met with a ruff, nor did the Admiral receive him as he expected; therefore he left the Adm'l as innocent of this affair as he found him.

Well, on his return here his orders appeared invalid; then I had an opinion to further my claim, which I did with all the Interest and art I was master of, and have just obtain'd a dividend of 50 p C't on the money that lay in the hands of Vandam & have got an order to receive the produce of the 2,000 £ stg as soon as it arrives, its momentarily expected. Well, to obtain this dividend and order I must inform you, that besides Bowing & scraping, & laying myself under many obligations to many, I was under the necessity of complementing the Widow with 100 £ stg besides my Council Fees. Well, then instead of my receiving 3762.11.—as was expected by the acc't & order you gave me, I only received as a dividend of 50 p C't 1463.9.—and out of it I was to pay the 100 £ stg before it would be paid me; the Councillors Fees I have not paid yet, but when its paid there will only remain in my hands 1200 & odd Pounds of that money, and the rem. of dividend cannot be ask'd for under 12 months; hence I have given the Widow an Endemnification Bond with good security for both this dividend & for the order. I have obtained for the other 2000 £ worth, and I am realy not without some apprehensions of hobble about it yet—but mum—it behooves my security and the Executrix both to support my claim. Mr. John Dixon sailed from hence the 23d Inst., by whom I sent many Letters, &c. You, I suppose, are acquainted with his loosing Brig & Cargo and of the distress'd situation he was in before he got down here. I rendered him every service in my Power, and advanced him on acc't of the Colony of Virg'a about 2000 £ curr'cy, though not any of the needful; indeed he was too much frightened to take any.

There is now lying here for sail a very fine armed Brig that mounts 12 six Pounders & 12 Swivels & 8 Cohorns, &c., &c., all complete, ready for action; her Price is £1500. Many more armed Vessels can be got here at any time, such as very fine sloops, schooners, &c., all armed fitting for action.

10th April, 1776.

The Virginia Stuff is daily expected in, how shall I get it

home, neither you nor them don't send me any Vessells to do it in. I shall be cautious how I ship any thing without proper instructions.

Copy

p Will'm Lux.

PETITION OF JAMES WALKER TO THE COMMITTEE OF
SAFETY.

The petition of James Walker and others humbly sheweth that your petitioners were taken up because they lived in Portsmouth and have been kept in prison forty odd days, and as our money is all gon we beg that we may be brought before your worships and discharged.

James Walker,
Alex'r Thompson,
John McIntyre.

To Mr. Chairman of the Committee of Safety.

LIST OF PRISONERS.

Prisoners rec'd June 2, 1776.

Edw'd Murfield,	}	Sent up by the Court of Comr's for Norfolk County.
Lott Sykes,		
Stephen Sampson,	}	Prisoners of War taken from the Otter.
Wm. Ancock,		

These two are Boys.

Negroes:

Phill, to Geo. Slakum of Maryland, Eastern Shore.

Joe Acum, to Edw'd Bayley.

Joe, . . . Do.

Gab., . . . Do.

Luke, . . . Do.

Peter, to Thos. Jacobs.

INVOICE OF SUNDRIES BOUGHT OF JOHN GOODRICH & CO.,
BY COL. WILLIAM AYLETT.*

Viz. [269 pieces German Oznabrigs.]
1 Box B. No. 58, containing 24 pieces $\frac{7}{8}$ Dowlas.

* Col. Wm. Aylett, of Virginia, was at this time Deputy Commissary General of Stores.

- 1 Box B. No. 59, containing 24 pieces of $\frac{3}{4}$ Dowlas.
- 1 Box B. No. 40, Containing 40 pieces of Linnens.
- 1 Bale Containing 20 Do Do.
- 2 Pieces of Russia sheeting containing 85 yds.

ABRAM VAN BIBBER TO THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION.

St. Eustatia, March 7, 1776.

Gentlemen:

Having been entrusted by the Convention of Maryland with the execution of such Business in this Island as the Critical situation of the Colonies render necessary. Was also on my departure from thence, furnished by William Lux, Exq'r, with the state of some transactions between the Colony of Virginia & Mr. Isaac Vandam, of this Island, lately deceased, repos'd in his hands some time before his Death (by a former Agent of yours) Mr. Goodrich to a considerable amount, with orders to procure a settlement & receive the sum due; but not being fully empowered to act agreeable to the forms required by Law shall not be able to render you any further service at present than procrastinating the settlement (which expect to affect) until I can be furnish'd with proper credentials from your Hon'ble Board to invalidate the claim of Mr. Bartho. Goodrich, who arriv'd here soon after me on Government service, & who expects an Elder Brother who was more immediately concern'd in this Transaction to further his claim. He found his demand on the Provincials having wrested from his Father to a more considerable amount, & its supposed he's (that is B. G. is) gone to Antigua to procure a letter from the Admiral to the Governor how to order the payment of this money to reinstate him. As this money was Lodged here to answer purposes which the states of Holland does not license, have every thing to apprehend shou'd he pursue this method. I make no doubt what I've offered will enduce you to exert yourselves to counteract the designs of this scoundrel, & you may rest assured if you should charge me with the Execution of this or any other Commands they shall be carefully & punctually adhered to & executed with the greatest secrecy & dispatch.

I am respectfully, Gentlemen, Your most obed't servant.
The Hon'ble the Provincial Congress of Virginia.
(Copy original Via North Carolina.)

ABRAM VAN BIBBER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE VIRGINIA
CONVENTION.

St. Eustatia, March 23, 1776.

Gentlemen:

Inclosed you have Invoice & Receipt for sundry Goods, shipped on board the sloop Dolphin, Robert Smith Master, on the proper Account & resque of the Colony of Virginia at the partic. Request of Mr. John Dickson, of your place, who informs me had instructions from your Honorable House to this Effect, but being so unfortunate as to loose the Brig & Cargo he came out in (also the Letters intrusted to him for me) has rendered him unable to execute. The above is duplicate of a Letter forwarded you thro' the Channel of No. Carolina by Mr. Jno. Wright Stanley, of that place, since which have done all in my power to frustate. Mr. Goodrich receiving the affects from Vandam's Executors until I can have further advice from you—my Council here informs me that he thinks it will be necessary to have an order from Goodrich (if it can be obtained) together with a special power of attorney from your Hon'ble Board to Recover this money. I have made Mr. John Dickson, the Bearer of this, acquainted with my whole transactions & situation here, to whom refer you for particulars relative to me here. He can inform you of the contracts & engagements I have entered into—& as I expect to continue in this Island until the next winter, tender you my best services during my stay, and am,
Gentlemen, -Your Obed. Hum. Serv't,

Abm. Van Bibber.

The Hon'ble the Provincial Congress of Virginia.

THE CASE OF JOHN WILKIE, OF GLOUCESTER.

The Hon'ble The President of The Committee
of Safety in Williamsburg.

Sir: Inclosed are the proceedings of a court of commissioners which was held this day for the examination of John Wilkie.

The court appointed persons to take into their care the effects which he has in this county: these as far as we can learn are two vessels and their appertenances, and a few dry goods. Wil-

kie is at present in the guard houses from whence he is extremely anxious to be removed. An express waits on you with this, at his return we beg your directions.

We are Very respectfully, Sir, Your obed't H'ble Serv't,

Warner Lewis, Jr.,
Jno. Peyton,
Jas. M. Fontaine.

Gloucester, April 4th, 1776.

One of Wilkie's vessells of about 1,800 bushels burthen, is particularly calculated for fast sailing, we mention this circumstance because we think probable that the committee of safety may want such a vessel.

At a Court of Commissioners held at Gloucester Court house on Thursday; the 4th day of April, 1776, for the examination of John Wilkie touching his conduct as being inimical to this Colony.

Present: Warner Lewis, Jun'r, Sir John Peyton & James M. Fontaine, Gent.

John Wilkie who stood charged with practices inimical to this Colony was this day brought before the above commissioners in order for his trial, and also came a Jury, to-wit: Thomas Boswell, Wm. Harwood, John Howlett, Jonathan Lyall, John Fox, John Seawell, Thomas Hughes, Mordecai Throckmorton, John New, George Gayle, James Thomas, & Mordecai Cooke, who were elected, tried & sworn, & after having heard the evidence, retired for some time & there returned with their verdict, being in these words: "We find John Wilkie guilty of giving intelligence to our enemies, and going on board the man of war intentionally. John Lyall." Therefore it is considered by the said Commissioners that he is guilty of the charges laid against him, and ordered that he be remanded to the guard house untill the farther orders of the Committee of safety.

Copy.

Jasper Clayton.

In Committee of safety at Williamsburg, April 5th, 1776.

The proceedings of the Court of Commissioners for Gloucester County on the trial of John Wilkie who was taken up and

charged with being inimical to the American cause was returned to this board, whereby it appears that the said John Wilkie is guilty of giving intelligence to the enemy and going on board their ships of war intentionally.

Ordered that he be removed from Gloucester under a proper guard to this city, and that the said Court do cause a true and perfect inventory and appraisement of the said Wilkie's estate within the said County to be made and returned to this board.

The Appraisement of John Wilkie's Estate in Current Money:

	£	S	D
1 New Saddle and Bridle, 45; Three Davises Quadrants, 30; Three Sea Compasses, 25,	5	0	
3 Time Glasses, 3 9; 1 Teakettle, 5; 1 Tool Chest and Tools, 40,	2	8	9
100 lb. of Bacon at 6d; 1 Boul, 2; Three Cups and Saucers, 2,	2	14	
Biscuit, 5; 8 lb Twine, 20; 2 Lines, 7 6,	1	12	6
100 lbs. Iron, 75; A Schooner with sails and Rigging, £170; 1 Boat, 5£,	178	15	
1 Jug with 1 quart of Oyl, 3; 1 Ball of Spun yarn, 2 6,	0	5	6
1 Iron Maul, 6; 1 Foot Addz, 5; 1 Iron Pot, 10,	1	1	
4 Blocks, 5; 2 Rum Hogsheads, 10; 1 Box with a few Candles, 2 3,	0	17	3
1 Bridle, 4; Lampblack, 3 9,	0	7	9
½ of a New Vessel on the stocks, 30£; 1 Bed and 2 Blankets, 30,	31	10	
	£224	11	9
	18	2	
	242	13	9

Effects of John Johnson found in John Wilkie's Possession:

	£	S	D
100 Sticks of Twist, 50; 33 Brass Rings at 3d,	2	18	3
63 Blue Buttons, 5; 22 yards of Tape at 2d,	0	8	8
4 Candle Snuffers, 5; 78 Twist Buttons, 8½,	0	13	1½

16½ yards of Binding, 4 1½; 2 pair of Brass			
Buckles, 2,	o	6	1½
3 Candles Snuffers, 3; 3 Sawrests, 3 9; 13			
Brass Thimbles, 3 3,	o	10	
7 Pair of Knitting needles, 2 4; 4 yards of			
Binding, ¼,	o	3	8
22 pare of Sleeve Buttons at 3¼ per pare,	o	6	10½
5 Razors, 3 9; 48 Shirt Buttons, 3; 7 yards of			
Ribband, 7,	o	13	9
1 Paper of Inkpowers, 1; 12 Brass Thimbles, 2,	o	3	o
2 Pair of Shears and Razor Strap, 1 6; 1 Dozen			
Brass Buttons, 6d,	o	2	o
1 Horn Book, 3d; 4½ yards of Binding, 16½d,	o	1	7½
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6	7	1

Apprais'd by William Hudgins and Thomas Flippin. This
18th Day of April, 1776.

TRIAL OF NEGROES FOR FELONY, STAFFORD CO., 1776.

Stafford, S. C.

At an examining Court held for The sd. Co'ty 27th April,
1776.

John Washington.

Present: Yelverton Peyton, Townshend Dade, and William
Hole, Gent.

Charles, a negro-man slave belonging to Robert Brent, Gent.,
Charles, a negro-man slave belonging to Thompson Mason,
Esq'r, Kitt, a negro-man slave belonging to George Brent,
Gent., & Harry, a negro-man slave belonging to John Ratcliff—
were committed to the Goal of this County by a Emittimus,
under the hand of Yelverton Peyton, Gent., one of his Majes-
ties—Justices of the Peace for the said County, for a felony—
were led to the Bar in Custody of the Sheriff; and thereupon
Alexander Rose, Esq'r, Attorney for Our Lord the King,
brought into Court an Indictment against them in these words:
Be it remembered, &c. And thereupon they were publicly ar-
raigned—and pleaded Not Guilty—and for trial put themselves
upon the Court; whereupon imediately, then and there, the

witnesses were examined in open Court, and being fully heard as well as what they could alledge in their defense—the Court do adjudges that the s'd Charles, belonging to Robert Brent and Kitt, belonging to the s'd George Brent, are Guilty of the Felony aforesaid, and for this offense be hanged by the Neck until they be dead—and the said Charles is valued at £76 5s., Kitt at £76 5s., and to be executed on the 18th day of May next; and it's further adjudged by the Court that Charles, belonging to the said Mason, & Harey, belonging to the said Ratcliff, & then to receive thirty nine lashes on their bare back well laid on.

John Washington.

A Copy,

Henry Tyler, C. S. C.

The Deposition of Ralph Grissell and John Grissell, taken upon the trial of the slaves before [], deposeeth & saith That on Saturday night last, being asleep in the forecastle of a small schooner, lying at the Wharf of Aquia Ware house, and near about mid-night was suprised to hear men on Deck, upon which they cryed out—Whose there—the answer was—Don't speak or the worse shall come of you—and the first of the Hatch being opened was near of the middle of Potomac River, when the unknown men proposed that these Depon'ts would steer the schooner to Coon [Coan] River; they should have the Guns to go on shore with, and promising no hurt should be done us which these Depon'ts Expected. And these Depon'ts further saith, that to their great surprise when they came on Deck, they found four negroe men, Viz: Kitt, belonging to Mr. George Brent; Charles, belonging to Mr. Robert Brent; Charles, belonging to Mr. Thompson Mason, and Harry, belonging to Mr. John Ratcliff; and the negroes, not being able to Manage the Vessell these Depon'ts stered to Maryland, and contrived to have them taken—except Mr. George Brent's Charles, and farther saith not.

Taken by

Yel. Peyton.

A Copy.

2d April, 1776.

Hary Tyler, C. S. C.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)